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THE CELESTIAL SCIENCE OF ASTROLOGY VINDICATED,

FROM

The CALUMNY of thoſe who are biggotted againſt what they do not underſtand,

BY

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TO

ALL LOVERS of TRUTH.

THE ancient Science of Aſtrology, being ſubject at this time to much calumny, and abuſe, has induced me to attempt this ſhort vindication, or illuſtration of it

The principal common objections are few; the firſt is, that it overthrows your belief in revelation; but this muſt be impoſſible, for if there be an Aſtrology in the heavens, as there undoubtedly is, it muſt eſtabliſh it, for truth cannot overcome truth:—The ſecond is, that it is a diabolical art, aided by compact with evil Spirits: this is an objection as ignorant as it is ridiculous, for it is well known to all perſons but little acquainted with this Science, that it is founded on the poſition, and

aſpects of the Planets.* Others ſuppoſe it to be imaginary, and to depend on chance; but I will endeavour to prove that, like the art of Phyſic, it depends on experience, and is founded on obſervation, ſcripture, and reaſon.

Moſt perſons (but little acquainted with hiſtory) know that this Science has been ſtudied, protected, and reſpected by the greateſt Princes and Philoſophers in all ages of the world; for *Cicero* informs us the Babylonians ſtudied it 4700 years. *Caliſthenes* likewiſe ſent into Greece, in the time of *Alexander* the Great, 1903 years obſervations of the Stars; and the Chineſe have, at this time, 3949 years obſervations of Tranſits, Eclipſes, &c. moſt of which have been examined by the European Miſſionaries, and have been found to agree with their calculations. To ſome this may appear incredible, but the vaſt plains of Aſia, and the ſerenity of the air in thoſe climates, occaſions the magnificence of the Heavens to exceed our ideas, and this is the reaſon ſuch long obſervations were made at ſo early a period.

* As any perſon will find that will learn the firſt rudiments of the Young Student's Guide, lately publiſhed by Mr. *Menſforth*, and ſold at *R. Chriſtie's*, No 54, Piccadilly; and the only remains of the long obſervations of the Egyptians and Chaldeans Ptolomy's Quadripartite.

May we not ſuppoſe, that when men firſt obſerved the fixed Stars, they imagined that thoſe diſtant worlds were intended to enlighten this our little Globe; but when they diſcovered the moving Planets of our ſyſtem, they, no doubt, had other ideas of them, and muſt conclude, thoſe were intended for ſome purpoſe more uſeful than light; and this would lead them to ſuppoſe they might have ſome influence on ſublunary Bodies: and this ſuppoſition would induce them to make the obſervations I have juſt mentioned. Is it then to be ſuppoſed that if they found no truth in their firſt Aphoriſms, they would have ſtudied and obſerved ſo long a time?

But was any impartial man to find, as they did, that the Planet *Saturn* is an enemy to nature; *Jupiter* a friend; *Mars* hot, and *Saturn* cold; and theſe general rules to agree with his experience, I think he would confeſs the heavenly Bodies to have ſome influence on things of this Globe, and would conſider that the calumnies this celeſtial Science labours under, is occaſioned by its having been practis'd in this Country by a ſet of men for gain, who are frequently totally incapable, on account of their indolence, and ignorance, of the Science itſelf, and thereby expoſed it to ridicule.

—A bad Phyſician does not convince us the Art of Phyſic is a Fallacy.——

Every perſon that believes the Old and New Teſtament, muſt acknowledge the influence of the Stars, for he may remember that *Moſes* " ſays the Luminaries were placed in the hea- " vens for ſigns and for ſeaſons. The greater " light to rule the day, and the leſſer to rule " the night."——The Propheteſs *Deborah* likewiſe ſays, " The Stars of Heaven fought in " their courſes againſt Siſera:"—and you all know, the arrival of the Saviour of the World was announced by a ſtar; and did not Aſtro- logers find out the ſame Saviour by means of this ſtar?

He likewiſe declares to his Diſciples, that " at the end of the world, there will be ſigns " in the Sun, the Moon, and Stars."—And GOD ſays to *Job*, " Can'ſt thou bind the " ſweet influence of the Pleiades, or loſe the " bands of Orion?"—And, in ſhort, Holy Writ abounds in paſſages of this kind, but too numerous to mention when brevity is required.

From what I have mentioned, I humbly conceive any candid perſon may diſcover, that this ancient Science is founded on long Obſervation, Reaſon, and Scripture; and I make no doubt, that was it publicly encouraged

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in this Country a few years, it would be equally reſpected by the preſent generation, as it was by the ancients.

Some perſons perhaps will ſay, it has been ſtudied and reſpected in this Country, but was at the beginning of this century, aboliſhed by Act of Parliament, as an impoſition on the Public; but let me adviſe theſe perſons to conſider, it was not the Science that was condemned, but its ignorant profeſſors, (as mentioned) who practiſed it for a living, to its great diſgrace; for it is well known there is in all profeſſions men, who pretend to underſtand more than they do; but I think no perſon will condemn the art theſe men profeſs, on this account.—About the ſame time the celebrated *Partridge* ſays, that "Aſtrology is now like a "dead carcaſs to which every crow or rook re-"ſorts, and takes a mouthful, then flys to the "next tree or other convenient place, and with "his croaking noiſe, tells the world he has "brought away the whole body in his bill." But notwithſtanding this, it did not want its Tyros; for Mr. *Lilly* had a gold chain preſented to him by the King of Sweden, for predicting him ſucceſs, being then at war with Denmark; and Mr. *Gadbury* publicly foretold when *Frederick* III. of Denmark was beſieged in his Capital, that he would drive his beſiegers out of his Kingdom, and recover more than he had loſt,

loſt, which happened juſt as he predicted, and this no longer ſince than the time of *Oliver Cromwell.*——Many other public proofs of its authenticity might be mentioned; but they are too numerous for this ſhort illuſtration of this noble Science.

I hope any perſon that is a friend to Art, will excuſe my having attempted (my inſufficency being evident) to defend this celeſtial, and ſublime Science: in this ſhort manner, a defence of it having filled large volumes, but there are few perſons who will take the trouble to read them, and there are many that will read this, which, if it ſhould not make them Students, it may make them friends to Art, which is all that is wiſhed by,

R. PHILLIPS.

LONDON, July 1785.

22 JY63